

and into its first office located on the corner of Lee and Bank Street in Decatur, changing its format from a magazine to a tabloid newspaper.

In 1983, *Speakin' Out News* merged with *The Weekly News*, published by Professor L.C. Jamar, Sr., and changed the company name to *Speakin' Out Weekly News*. Following the merger, *Speakin' Out Weekly News* relocated its office to Huntsville, Ala. The format was again changed from a tabloid to a broad sheet newspaper and remains so today.

From its inception, *Speakin' Out* covered politics, the arts, business, and health issues. The editorial content was geared toward the African American community. Its unique opinions and balanced reporting has helped attract a large subscriber base. In fact, the newspaper currently boasts a weekly readership in excess of 80,000.

Furthermore, *Speakin' Out* has established itself as a community partner in North Alabama. It hosts and sponsors numerous events each year. *Speakin' Out* has also established the North Alabama Journalism Center, its non-profit entity, serving as an educational and professional haven for students with an interest in communications. The center collaborates with surrounding colleges and universities to provide a venue for students to gain practical instruction. The center also offers an after school tutorial program, *Starting Smarter*, for students K-12.

Mr. Speaker, *Speakin' Out Weekly News* has given a voice to African-Americans in my community and has established itself as a reliable source of community events, news, and opinions. I appreciate the publication's impartial reporting, the hard work of its reporters, and its strong commitment to our community.

Mr. Speaker, over the weekend of August 13th and 14th, *Speakin' Out* held a community wide celebration in honor of its silver anniversary. I rise today to join them in their celebration and to congratulate them on this exciting milestone.

IN RECOGNITION OF JAMES
BRAZELTON

HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2005

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions of my friend Jim Brazelton, who recently retired from his position as Stanislaus County District Attorney.

Jim began his career as a military policeman assigned to the White House Security Detail. In 1963, he joined the City of Bakersfield Police Department where he served as a patrolman, motorcycle officer and detective. Five years later, Jim accepted a position with the City of Orange's police department where he worked his way through the ranks of patrolman, detective, watch commander, SWAT Commander and Sergeant. During his time there, he attended Western State University's College of Law in Anaheim, California. Upon graduating in 1974, Jim left the department and practiced law for the next 11 years.

In 1985, Jim came to the Stanislaus County District Attorney's Office where he served in

the felony trial division. As Senior Deputy District Attorney, he was responsible for the prosecution of many high-profile homicide cases. In January of 1993, Jim was named Chief Deputy District Attorney for the Felony Superior Court Division. In August of 1995, he was named Chief Deputy District Attorney of Administration.

In March 1996, Jim was appointed by the Stanislaus County Supervisors to fill the unexpired term of the retiring District Attorney. District Attorney Brazelton ran unopposed in the 1998 and 2002 elections.

In addition to his duties as District Attorney, Jim is a member of the local Police Officer's Association, where he has served both on the board and as president, as well as the Stanislaus County Association of Law Enforcement Executives where he served as president in 2000. In 2001, he was appointed by State Attorney General Bill Lockyer to serve on his Blue Ribbon SWAT Team Practices Commission. He has served as a member of the Board of Directors for the California District Attorneys Association, was on their Capital Litigation Committee for several years, and often lectures at their conferences.

For the past several years, Jim has been an active and valued member of several worthwhile community organizations. He was an Executive Board member of Fight Crime-Invest in Kids and is on the board of the Carol Sund/Carrington Memorial Reward Foundation.

District Attorney James Brazelton has been dedicated to public safety and service for more than 40 years. For the past 20 years, he has vigorously and effectively sought to protect the citizens of Stanislaus County and to ensure justice for the victims of crime. I ask my colleagues in the House to join me in thanking Mr. Brazelton for his dedicated service to the public and wish him the very best in the years to come.

CONGRATULATIONS TO TALIAH C.
LAWSON, RECIPIENT OF THE
PRESIDENTIAL FREEDOM SCHOL-
ARSHIP

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the superior academic performance of Taliah C. Lawson, a recipient of this year's Presidential Freedom Scholarship. Thirteen students in the 26th Congressional District are receiving this special recognition.

This award recognizes outstanding service and citizenship initiatives by the students who were nominated, and provides an opportunity to acknowledge their leadership. Administered by Learn and Serve America, the scholarship provides \$500 in Federal funds, matched with \$500 from a community organization or business obtained for the student by their high school or Boys and Girls Club. Winners must have completed at least 100 hours of community service, either through a school-based service learning program or independently through service at a nonprofit or faith-based organization.

Taliah is a member of the Boys and Girls Club of Cooke County Teen Center. This organization also contributed matching funds worth \$500.

Over 38,000 students to date have received this award and I extend my sincere congratulations to Taliah C. Lawson for being one of them. This student's contribution and services should serve as inspiration to those who wish to make a positive difference in the lives of others.

RECOGNIZING HELEN AND HARRY
DANKS

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2005

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize two outstanding constituents of Missouri's Sixth Congressional District: Helen and Harry Danks of Grundy County, Missouri. Helen and Harry will celebrate their 60th Wedding Anniversary on December 23, 2005.

Helen and Harry Danks were married on December 23, 1945 in Memphis, Tennessee. At the time, Harry was serving our country at Millington Naval Air Station in Millington, Tennessee and Helen was working at the Oak Ridge Bomb Plant in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. Incidentally, Helen worked at Oak Ridge Bomb Plant at the same time that Fat Man and Little Boy were made.

Helen and Harry Danks have been outstanding citizens of Grundy County and Northwest Missouri. They have operated the family farm for over 50 years, and are dedicated and active members of their church and community.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Helen and Harry Danks. Their marriage of 60 years is inspirational, and I am honored to represent them in the United States Congress.

CONGRATULATING STEPFAMILY
ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

HON. MELISSA A. HART

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2005

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Stepfamily Association of America (SAA) and recognize their efforts as they celebrate their annual Stepfamily Day on September 16, 2005.

Over the past nine years the SAA, our Nation's largest stepfamily organization, has worked diligently to provide outreach to stepfamilies and to those who work with them. The SAA offers information, education, and support to stepfamilies across the country to ensure that they have the proper tools to build and maintain strong families.

I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in honoring the SAA and to acknowledge the annual Stepfamily Day. It is an honor to represent the Fourth Congressional District of Pennsylvania and a pleasure to salute an organization like the Stepfamily Association of America.